(f) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Canalising Agency, State Trading Corpn. through which import of edible oils is canalised has imported Refined Palmolein during the last 3 financial years as follows :

Financial	Qty. (Lakh Tonnes)	Value CIF (Rs. Crores)	Average Unit Price (Rs. MT.)
1990-91 .	5.38	349.95	6,506
1991-92 .	1.07	103.73	9,709
1992-93 .	0.30	39.44	13,254

(c) Currently STC holds a stock of about 3,500 tonnes of Refined Palmolein from the quantity imported during the last financial year.

(d) Refined Palmolein imported by STC has been released to the State Govts. as per the allocations issued by the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution at the issue price fixed by the Government.

(e) and (f) Some representations from oil-seed Growers Co-operation Unions etc. urging against import of edible oil have been received in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution and the Deptt. of Agriculture & Co-operation. During the current year. Government has not imported any quantity of palmolein.

GATT Amendments on Result of GENE Banks

3177. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned Third World genes, firs world monopoly which appeared in the Indian Express of June 12, 1992 ;

(b) if so, what clarification if any, have been sought in the light of the apprehensions expressed therein, to the effect that with the adoption of the GATT amendment as a result of 'Uruguay Round of Talks World' soon be stored in gene-banks in the US and Europe patented and commercialised to benefit transitional pharmaceutical corporations ; and

(c) with what result so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) India does not support the establishment of an international regime requiring the patenting of life forms. Government is seeking a modification in the Dunkel proposals concerning patentability of micro-organisms. The Uruguay Round negotiations are still continuing and there is no finality so far in respect of various proposals under consideration concerning trade related aspects of intellectual property rights.

Export of Edible Oil

3178. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM :

SHRI O. RAJGOPAL :

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :

will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government announced their plan to permit the export of edible oil early this year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government have put off the decision to export edible oil, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that banking on Government statement several companies have planned launching of new brand names of edible oil exclusively for the export market and had even started marketing campaigns, whether it is as constituted a heavy loss to the companies;

(d) whether it is also a fact that such a loss and embarrassment to those companies would have been avoided if the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) had taken the decision in time; and

(e) if so, what steps Government have taken to compensate their losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.